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IPL 2024: MUMBAI GET OFF THE MARK WITH EMPHATIC VICTORY

After three losses, Mumbai Indians pocketed their first points with a 29-run victory vs Delhi Capitals while Lucknow secured their third win...

MI OUT-HIT CAPITALS; LSG TOO GOOD FOR GT

Rohit Sharma (49 off 27), Ishan Kishan (42 off 23), Tim David (unbeaten 21-ball 45) and Romario Shepherd (39 n.o from 10 balls) exhibited a six-hitting show as Mumbai posted a massive 234/5 against Delhi. Despite Tristan Stubbs' heroic efforts (71 n.o), DC could only manage 205/8. In the second game, Lucknow Super Giants beat Gujarat Titans by 33 runs

CAN CHENNAI GET BACK TO WINNING WAYS?

- Chennai Super Kings are back at Chepauk after two away losses as they take on Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday
- While Mustafizur Rahman is expected to be back, the Ruturaj Gaikwad-led side will be hoping that their batting fires to perfection against KKR who have some serious hitters in the ranks | P13

284

STUBBS' 71 IN. O IS THIRD BEST SR AMONGST 25-PLUS BALL KNOCKS IN IPL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

At 45.2° C, six villages in K'buragi record highest temp in Karnataka

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI
@ Kalaburagi

SIX villages in Gabbur hobli of Deodurga taluk in Raichur district on Sunday recorded 45.2 degrees Celsius, making it the highest in the state this year.

Gugal, Maladkal, Hemnal, Hirebudur, Ramdurga and Shavantagera hit record temperatures, while many other villages in Yadgir, Kalaburagi and Bagalkot districts of North Karnataka too recorded close to 45 degrees Celsius on Sunday. The India Meteorological Department has issued a heat wave alert in many parts of North Karnataka, especially in the Kalyana Karnataka region, where the temperature has been rising over the last five days. Some villages in Kalaburagi and Raichur districts had recorded highs, but not above 45 degrees Celsius.

Kalaburagi District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Ratikant Swamy said no untoward incidents have been reported though temperatures have been climbing steadily over the last few days. In the last seven days, seven people from different villages suffered mild heat strokes and were treated at nearby Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres, he added.

Raichur Deputy Commissioner Chandrashekhar Nayaka and Kalaburagi Deputy Commissioner Fouzia Tarannum said they have asked officials to provide shelter and drinking water at places where MGNREGA works are in progress. The state government has reduced the workload of workers in 14 districts of the state, especially North Karnataka, by 30 per cent and labourers have been advised not to work during peak heat hours. The police have decided to switch off traffic signals from noon till 4 pm.

The Health Department has asked citizens, especially seniors, not to venture out of their house between noon and 4 pm unless there is an emergency. During these hours, roads in Kalaburagi and Raichur have been wearing a deserted look.

People wait with pots for water at Jyotinagar in Belagavi on Sunday

Light rain likely from April 2nd week in B'luru

The India Meteorological Department brought a glimmer of hope to people, even as it predicted rainfall in the second week of April in Bengaluru. The city recorded 37.6 degrees Celsius on April 2, the highest in the past eight years. P2

Day after Bengal mob attack, NIA officers face FIR

Police register case against central agency's officials for 'molestation' and 'trespassing'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kolkata

A day after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) team probing the 2022 Bhupatinagar bomb blast case came under attack by an unruly mob in West Bengal's East Midnapore district, the local police on Sunday said that they have booked the agency's officials for 'molestation' and 'trespassing'. The NIA team had gone to the Bhupatinagar village in the wee hours on Saturday to conduct raids and take into custody two key conspirators of the 2022 attack.

During the raids, the anti-terror agency arrested Balai Charan Maity and Manobrata Jana, a Trinamool Congress leader. Police sources said an FIR was filed against officials of the NIA as well as the accompanying security personnel after Jana's wife lodged a complaint accusing the officials of forcibly entering her house and trying to outrage her modesty.

The NIA strongly refuted the allegations, pointing out that the searches were conducted at five locations in the presence of independent witnesses and under the security cover provided by the CRPF, which included women constables.

The probe agency said Maity and Jana were taken into custody following extensive searches. As the team commenced its search operation, the officials were reportedly confronted by a hostile mob, which included women. The situation quickly escalated as the unruly mob launched an assault on the NIA officers, resulting in injury to an official and damage to a vehicle's windscreen.

The NIA said it has filed a written complaint about the attack on its officials at the Bhupatinagar police station. However, no one has been arrested in connection with the attack yet.

The attack on the NIA team evoked memories of January 5 when a team of the Enforcement Directorate officials was attacked by a large crowd in North 24 Parganas district's Sandeshkhali. The ED team came under brutal attack during a search at the house of Shahjahan Sheikh, a Trinamool Congress strongman, in connection with alleged irregularities in the public distribution system in the state.

Bid to intimidate TMC, says Abhishek

Trinamool leader Abhishek Banerjee accused the BJP of using central agencies to intimidate TMC and asserted that people are with the Bengal party. "BJP can have ED, CBI on their side. They are threatening those who are raising their voices against their undemocratic acts. A section of media friends are also siding with the BJP. But people of Bengal are with the TMC," he said

'Attack on officials was unprovoked'

The NIA refuted allegations of 'mala fide' in its raids and said the attack on its officials was 'unprovoked'. "NIA made it clear that its actions were bona fide, lawful, and legally mandated, as part of its ongoing investigation into the heinous crime related to fabrication of crude bombs, leading to an explosion that killed three persons in Naruabila village, PS Bhoopatinagar," it said

TMC targets probe agencies to shield the corrupt: Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kolkata

THE political slugfest over the attack on NIA officials escalated on Sunday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday alleging that the Trinamool Congress (TMC) was "orchestrating attacks on central investigative agencies" in the state to shield its extortionist and corrupt leaders.

Speaking at a rally in Jalpaiguri in West Bengal, Modi said the TMC desires a free licence for corruption and violence in Bengal, which is why central agencies investigating such cases face attacks in the state. "When central investigative agencies come here, the TMC attacks them...it's a party that crushes the law and the Constitution of the country... you saw what happened in Sandeshkhali. Everyone in the country knows it," he said. Modi added that the TMC's 'Syndicate Raj' prevails in Bengal, and the ruling party in the state is only interested in protecting its corrupt leaders.

"The TMC government seeks to have a free pass for loot and terror in Bengal. To shield its extortionist and corrupt leaders, the TMC orchestrates attacks on central investigative agencies when they come here," he added.

Meanwhile, Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee sought to put the blame on the NIA for the attack. "They are carrying out raids without prior information and barging into houses. What would women do if someone entered their house in the dead of night," she said on Sunday at an election rally.

Jibe at Kharge

On Mallikarjun Kharge's comment on Article 370, Modi said: "The post of Congress president is not a small thing. And the leader thinks Article 370 has nothing to do with Rajasthan. Is Jammu and Kashmir not part of India?"

Vistara cutting 30 flights daily

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

HAVING to cancel over 150 flights in the first week of April due to non-availability of pilots, Vistara on Sunday said it is cancelling 10% of its daily flights in April as it looks to normalise operation.

"We are carefully scaling back our operations by around 25-30 flights per day. This will take us back to the same level of flight operations as at the end of February 2024, and provide the much-needed resilience and buffer in the rosters," said a Vistara spokesperson.

The cancellations are done mostly in the domestic network of Vistara, a joint venture between the Tata Group and Singapore International Airlines. Vistara operates about 300 flights daily and 1,000 pilots on its rolls. Earlier this week, the DGCA sought a daily report from the airline as the issue snowballed into a major embarrassment.

Vistara pilots were not happy with the revised salary structure, which is being "forced upon them" ahead of its merger with Air India, they said.

Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan, a day ago said that 98% of its pilots have signed the new contracts with the revised salary structure. "We are aware that some pilots have some concerns and queries regarding the contract. We are engaging with them to clarify and resolve the same. However, this has not caused any visible spike in attrition among the pilots," Kannan said.

Palestinians return to Khan Yunis after Israel pulled its ground forces out of southern Gaza Strip on Sunday | AFP

UNDER PRESSURE, ISRAEL PULLS FORCES OUT OF SOUTHERN GAZA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

UNDER pressure from the US and allies over the 'unintentional' killing of aid workers, Israel on Sunday adopted a conciliatory approach and pulled out troops from southern Gaza.

The Israeli military in a statement said the 98th commando division has "concluded its mission" in Khan Yunis and left "in order to recuperate and prepare for future operations". However, the Israeli military said it will continue to have presence in the rest of the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel is ready for a deal but is not ready to surrender. The partial withdrawal from Gaza should aid the truce talks expected to resume in Cairo. "There will be no ceasefire without the return of hostages. It just won't happen," he said. Netanyahu has been under pressure from the international community after Israel on April 1 dropped bombs on humanitarian workers of US-based food charity World Central Kitchen by mistake.

Last week, US President Joe Biden said his support for the war would depend on Israel curtailing the death of civilians and improving humanitarian conditions in Gaza.

Britain also demanded that the conflict must end. Israel's public broadcaster Channel 11 reported that the remaining forces would be located along the Netzarim Corridor, a route that splits the Gaza Strip in two. Following the global outcry over the death of aid workers, Israeli military sacked two senior officers on Friday. Israeli military's inquiry into the incident revealed that the drone operators did not follow rules and thought the World Central Kitchen's cars were carrying Hamas gunmen.

The Israel Defence Forces apologised for its mistake and sacked a colonel and major for the failure and added that those who carried out the attack could face criminal prosecution. While welcoming the action, World Central Kitchen founder Jose Andres called for an independent probe into the Israeli strike that killed his staff, and warned that the conflict had become a "war against humanity itself."

Reacting to Israel's partial withdrawal, US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said: "As we understand it, and through their public announcements, it is really just about rest and refit for these troops that have been on the ground for four months and not necessarily, that we can tell, indicative of some coming new operation for these troops." P11

EXPRESS READ

Huge cache of explosives recovered

Sukma: Security forces on Sunday recovered a huge cache of explosives from two places in the district, an official said. The seized materials include 350 gelatin sticks, 105 electric detonators, a Barrel Grenade Launcher (BGL), 22 BGL projectors, 19 BGL bombs and Maoist literature, the official added.

46 medicos discharged in B'luru

Bengaluru: Forty-six of the 47 PG students from Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), who were admitted to Victoria Hospital with dehydration and diarrhoea on Friday, were discharged on Sunday. One student continues to receive treatment at the trauma care centre. P3

3 killed, 33 injured as bus overturns in C'durga dist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga

THREE passengers died, while 33 others sustained injuries after a private sleeper bus they were travelling in overturned near Hanumanthana Kanive of Holalkere taluk in Chitradurga district early on Sunday morning.

The deceased were identified as Ganapathi Kallappa (35), an engineer from Gokarna, Jagadish (45) from Honnavara, and Ronak Singh (45), an engineer from Sakaleshpur, Hassan district.

SP Dharmender Kumar Meena said that rash and negligent driving and overspeeding led to the accident as the driver lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a curve. Two passengers were killed on the spot, while the other died at the hospital. Those who needed tertiary care were rushed to Chitradurga, Shivamogga and Davanagere hospitals.

The private sleeper bus that overturned in Chitradurga district on Sunday | EXPRESS

Eight-month-old child safe

Eight-month-old baby Rishik, who was travelling with his parents Sridevi and Nagaraj, survived the accident as doctors attended to him immediately. Locals rushed to the help of injured passengers, and provided them with breakfast, milk, coffee and water.

All the bodies of the deceased were handed over to their relatives.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Every day, 2 died in first 2 months of '24 in B'luru

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

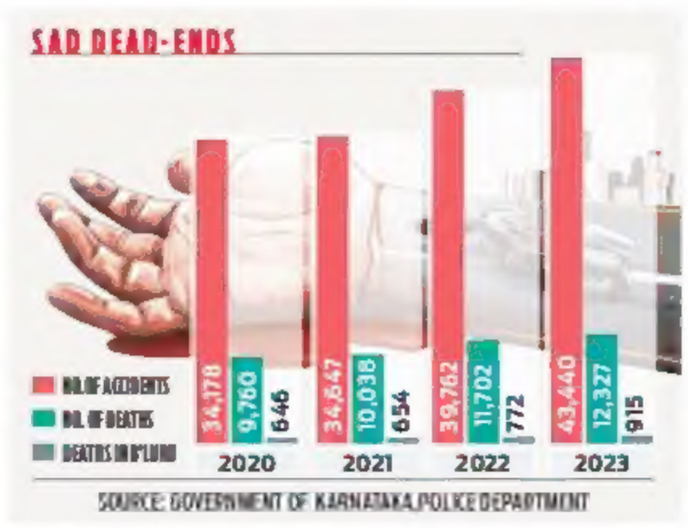
EVERY day, two people are losing their lives on dangerous roads of Bengaluru. In just two months – January and February of this year – 168 people have lost their lives.

In 2023, 915 people died in road accidents in Bengaluru, while the toll was 12,327 across the state. Since 2019, the number of deaths has steadily gone up.

ADGP, Road Safety and Traffic, Alok Kumar, said that in 2023, an average of 34 people died in road accidents across the state every day. Bengaluru recorded the highest number of 4,974 accidents, in which 915 people died and 4,162 were injured. Bengaluru was followed by Belagavi and Tumakuru.

Most of the accidents were reported during peak traffic hours of 6 pm to 9 pm. While 55-60% of the accidents involved two-wheeler riders, 15-20% had pedestrians as victims. The rest of the accidents involved cars, trucks and autorickshaws. The majority of those who lost their lives were men aged between 18 and 40. Maximum fatalities were reported on national and state highways. The rest of the accidents occurred at key hotspots in the city, including Kengeri, Yeshwanthpur, Chikkajala, Peenya and Yelahanka.

Alok Kumar said, "In certain scenarios, delays in ambulance response and insufficient victim care have resulted in the loss of life. Discussions have been held with district health officers to ensure prompt 108 ambulance response and implementation of post-trauma accident protocols." The primary causes of accidents included reckless driving and inadequate infrastructure, along with a significant number of riders neglecting to wear helmets. Every year, the traffic police issue notices to over 50,000 riders for not wearing helmets. Discussions are on with the government to build walkways along major roads and to install pre-record signboards on national highways and even in the city. There are also plans to enforce use of helmets for children below four years old.



Youth tries to extort poll officials, caught

ENS @ Mysuru

IN a hilarious incident, officers who were on election duty caught a youth, who posed himself as a policeman and tried to extort money from them.

The officers, who were part of the election flying squad, were travelling from Sathagalli bus depot towards Devegowda Circle in a car here on April 4 night. PWD Assistant Engineer Cariappa, Second Division Assistant Mahadev, car driver Likith and Metagalli police station constable Shashikumar were in the car.

Three youth, who were on a motorbike, waylaid the car near Devegowda Circle. Without realising that the vehicle occupants were election officers, the youth claimed themselves to be policemen deputed to check vehicles. P4